

Community Involvement

The best protection towards preserving the valuable resource that is our watershed is **YOU!** The eyes and ears of local residents are critical for keeping the Cuyahoga River a clean source of drinking water and a safe place for recreation and enjoyment. If you see anything out of place in the watershed, such as dumping or polluting please contact local authorities as quickly as possible.

If you'd like to learn more about this project, you can follow our timeline and see a map of all the sign locations at www.akronohio.gov/watershed.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP PROTECT YOUR WATERSHED:

- Avoid using excessive pesticides and fertilizers on your lawn or garden
- Avoid using manure and other fertilizers during winter months
- Use natural products, a good alternative to hazardous household chemicals
- Pick up after your pets
- Inspect and maintain septic systems on a regular basis
- Take your trash with you when you leave natural areas



UPPER CUYAHOGA RIVER SIGN PROJECT

Water Bureau
Watershed Division
1570 Ravenna Road
Kent, OH 44240

330-678-0077, ext. 437 (phone)
330-678-0927 (fax)

email: Akronwatershed@akronohio.gov
website: www.akronohio.gov/water



City of Akron Watershed
Division in conjunction with
the Ohio Environmental
Education Fund

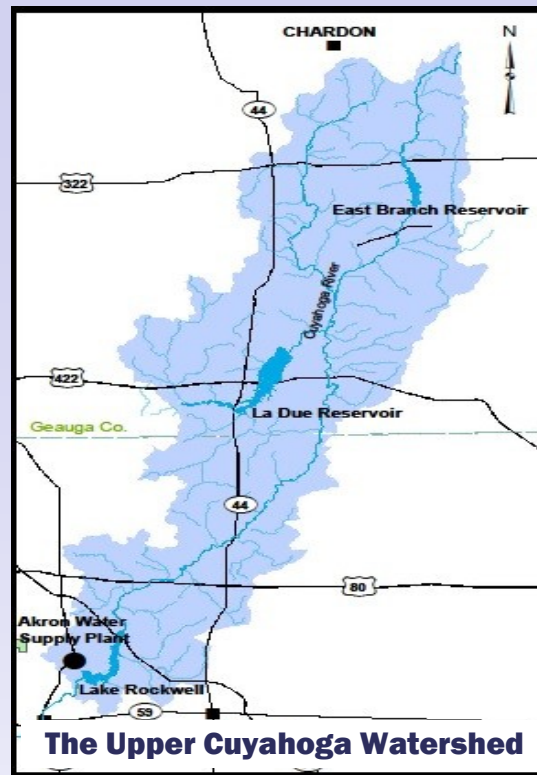


HELLO NEIGHBOR!

You might have noticed these new signs popping up around the watershed:



These signs are part of an ongoing Upper Cuyahoga River education project by Akron Water Supply's Watershed Division with assistance from the Ohio EPA's Ohio Environmental Education Fund Grant (OEEF). By drawing attention to local waterways we hope to help protect them. You probably already know where the [Cuyahoga River](#) is...but what about some of its tributaries: [Harper Ditch](#), [Elliman Run](#), [Shalersville Ditch](#) and [Yoder Ditch](#)? The quality of these streams is vital because Akron relies upon them daily to provide clean and reliable drinking water. Conscientious, well-informed citizens assist in defending the health of our precious natural resources.



WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is an area of land on which water, as rain or snow, accumulates and drains to a common point. Everything that happens in a watershed has an effect on the quality of water.



WHY PROTECT THE WATERSHED?

Akron Watershed Division works diligently to protect the Upper Cuyahoga River Watershed from both chemical and biological contamination including *Cryptosporidium parvum*, a dangerous pathogen that can be introduced into water via fecal contamination. Akron's watershed monitoring and preservation efforts benefit not only the quality of the drinking water for the people of Akron but also the conservation of natural areas in the Upper Cuyahoga River watershed for all to enjoy.

WATER POLLUTION SOURCES:

- Fecal/Wastewater
- Runoff
- Hazardous Chemicals
- Fertilizers and Pesticides

NATURAL AND FORESTED AREAS PROVIDE:

- Filtration of pollution
- Shade and Temperature control
- Wildlife Habitat
- Buffering of Agricultural, Construction and Non-permeable surface Runoff